GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:440
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2016
Solar Cells and Solar Channels from China
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether China made solar cells and solar channels are much cheaper than those made in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(c) whether Indian industry favours Chinese solar goods on the plea of being cheaper and high quality, if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
(d) whether solar panel and cells manufacturing industries in the country have been adversely affected and many of them have reportedly closed down their production, if so, the details thereof;
(e) whether the industry has asked the Government to put an anti-dumping duty on cells and panels imported from various countries including China;
(f) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken or being taken by the Government to save the domestic solar cells and channels manufacturers;
(g) the details of subsidy/incentives currently being given by the Government to domestic manufacturers; and
(h) the percentage of solar energy equipments and parts being imported in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR POWER, COAL & NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a)&(b): Price of solar cells and panels keeps changing. Several types of solar cells/panels with varying quality and specifications are available from China and therefore price of panels is not fixed at one level.
(c): Industry makes the choice based on commercial considerations. In India, solar goods are being imported from various countries including China. Government is also encouraging domestic manufacturing.

(d): Indian solar industry, particularly Cell manufacturers have been under stress due to fall in in the international prices. However, the manufacturing capacity for solar cells and modules has not reduced. But rather increased in last one year.

(e): Some manufacturers have filed a petition for imposition of anti-dumping duty which being a quasi-judicial function, is being dealt independently by the concerned authorities.

(f)&(g): In order to boost indigenous production, the Government has taken the following steps:
i) The Government is implementing schemes where provision for Domestic Content Requirement (DCR) for solar cells and modules have been kept to boost domestic manufacturing.
ii) There is provision for concessional customs duty and excise duty exemptions on input raw materials required for manufacturing of cells and modules.
iii) The Government provides capital subsidy for setting up of manufacturing units for solar cells and modules and the entire value chain under Modified Special Incentives Package Scheme (M-SIPS) programme.

(h): The imported contents in the solar equipment keeps changing from time to time. In the year 2014-15, the value of import of solar cells/photovoltaic cells (whether or not assembled) in module/panel was Rs. 5051.78 crore as given in Export Import Data Bank of Department of Commerce, Govt. of India.